

discharge of their duties, and it shall have the power to make decisions on applications for benefits and its decision thereon shall be final and conclusive and not subject to review or reversal, except by the Board itself. The Board of Commissioners shall have authority to determine the eligibility or status of any applicant of any and all of those who come within the categories of law enforcement officers named in subsection (m) of this Section, in accordance with general rules and regulations adopted by the Board, and the decision of the Board of Commissioners as to such membership, eligibility or status shall be final.

(t) The Board of Commissioners shall have power and authority to promulgate rules and regulations and to set up standards under and by which it may determine eligibility for benefits under this subsection, of a law enforcement officer, (as defined in this Section) and to determine the amounts to be paid after it is determined by the Board that such officer is eligible. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no person shall be eligible for benefits hereunder unless he is in active service as a law enforcement officer at the occurrence of a contingency for which benefits may be payable, or unless he has retired from such service on or after July 1, 1965. Eligibility shall be determined without regard to whether or not an officer is a member of the Retirement Fund established by this Section. Benefits may be provided by the Board, within the availability of funds, as follows:

(1) a lump sum payable to the designated beneficiary upon the death of an eligible officer;

(2) hospital, surgical, and medical benefits covering eligible officers, their legal spouses, and their dependent children under 18 years of age.

(u) The benefits provided for in subsection (t) of this Section, shall be in addition to all benefits provided for in subsections (b) through (q) of this Section.

(v) If the amount derived from the increase in court costs provided by this Act shall not be sufficient at any time to enable the Board of Commissioners to pay each person entitled to benefits in full, then an equitably graded percentage of such payment or payments shall be made to each beneficiary until the "Separate Benefit Fund" is replenished sufficiently to warrant resumption thereafter of full benefits to each of said beneficiaries.

(w) "Local Fund" shall mean any local pension fund, or local benefit fund, or local association established before July 1, 1965 under authorization of law and operated to provide benefits for law enforcement officers of any political subdivision within the year beginning July 1, 1965.

At such date as the Board of Commissioners may determine, but not later than September 30, 1966, the Board may, but need not, cause to be paid from the "Separate Benefit Fund" to a Local Fund a portion of the income previously received by the "Separate Benefit Fund" within the year beginning July 1, 1965 from court costs collected in the political subdivision and to whose officers such Local Fund has provided benefits. Such portion, if any, shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Commissioners, after its review of any pertinent information which shall be furnished by such political subdivision at the request of such Board, and after its review of the operation and experience of the "Separate Benefit Fund"